



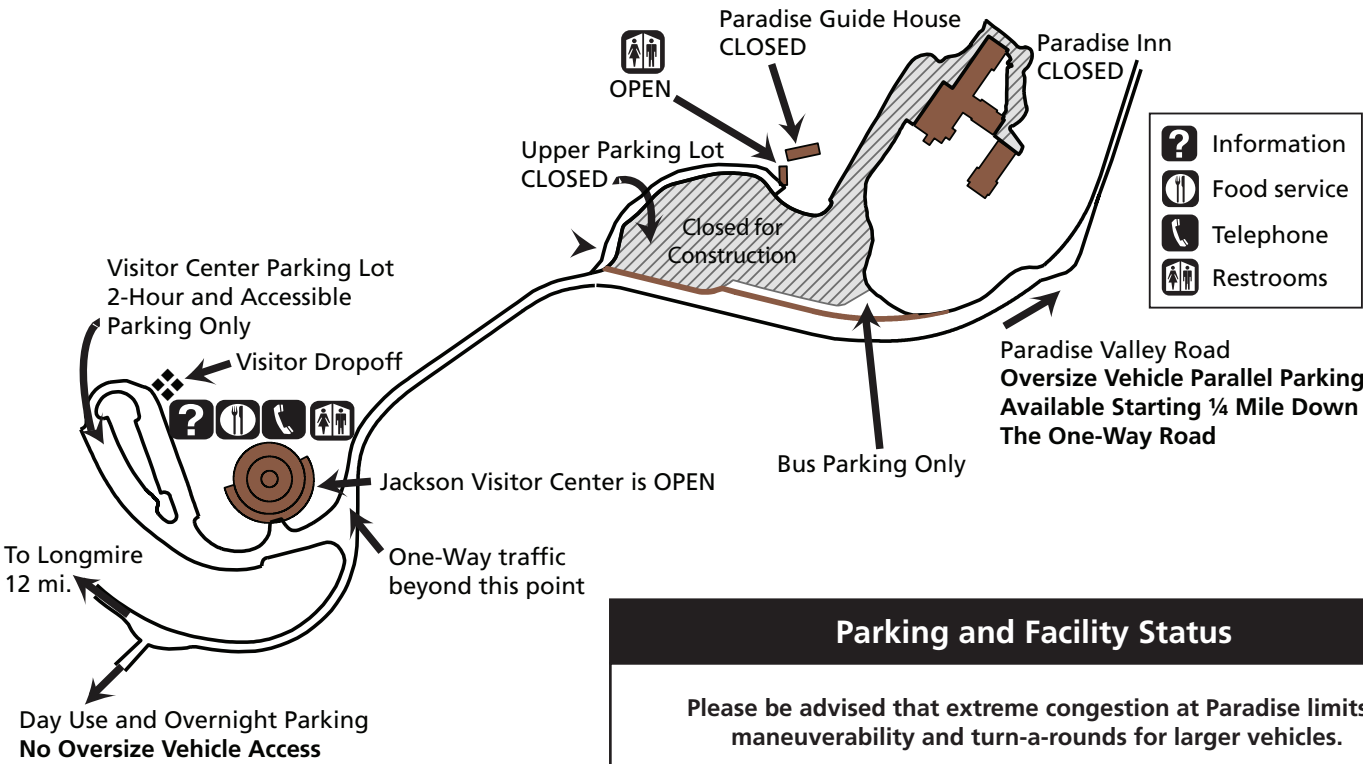
Mount Rainier National Park

Paradise Construction Project



RV and Oversize Vehicle Parking Guide

Includes vehicles with a combined length exceeding 20 feet



Correction to summer newspaper article, *Paradise Construction Heads Up!*
Paradise remains open to RV and oversize vehicle access. A shuttle is available Friday - Sunday and Labor Day from the oversize vehicle parking at Cougar Rock and the lot on the west end of the Glacier Bridge.

Construction efforts have significantly reduced parking in the immediate Paradise area. Be prepared to park along the Paradise Valley Road and walk back up to Paradise. Visitor drop off is available in the visitor center parking lot. A shuttle is available on weekends. Thank you for your patience during construction.

Parking and Facility Status

Please be advised that extreme congestion at Paradise limits maneuverability and turn-a-rounds for larger vehicles.

- A shuttle is available Friday - Sunday and Labor Day from the oversize vehicle parking at Cougar Rock and the lot on the west end of the Glacier Bridge.
- Oversize vehicle parking at Paradise is limited to the Paradise Valley Road. Park at least ¼ mile down the start of this road.
- Passenger drop off is available in front of the visitor center prior to parking down the Paradise Valley Road.
- Cell phone service is not available in the park. Prearrange a meeting time and location prior to drop off.
- No camping in the Paradise area. Check with a ranger for campground locations.
- Oversize vehicle access is not permitted in the Day Use & Overnight Parking area south of the visitor center lot but it is available on the Paradise Valley Road.
- No oversize vehicle parking in the visitor center parking lot.
- East of the visitor center lot, the road becomes one-way requiring exiting down the Paradise Valley Road.
- The visitor center and access to Paradise meadows and trails remain open.
- The Paradise Inn and the Guide House are closed. Obtain climbing permits at the visitor center.
- The walkway on the north side of the upper parking lot, the main trailhead, and the restrooms below the Guide House are open.

The Project

Construction efforts are up and running at Paradise this summer during rehabilitation of the Paradise Inn and construction of the new Henry M. Jackson Visitor Center. The current visitor center will remain open during construction and will continue to provide book & gift sales, dining at the Grill, nature walks and interpretive activities. Come on up to hike the meadows, climb the mountain (stop by the visitor center for climbing information and a climbing permit), or to enjoy the amazing wildflower meadows and the unbeatable backdrops of Mount Rainier and its glaciers and the Tatoosh Range.

Due to the construction projects parking will be congested and the area could be noisier than usual. *For an enjoyable visit please consider the following information prior to driving to Paradise:*

The best time to visit Paradise is on weekdays, early or late in the day.

If visiting on a weekend or holiday plan to arrive at Paradise by 9:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. for the best parking opportunities.

Consider exploring other areas of the park or outside of the park during construction.

Construction Zone!	Ensure a safe visit by following traffic and pedestrian signs, using patience while driving in the heavily congested area, watching for children and pedestrians, and staying out of construction zones.	
Protecting Paradise	Help limit impacts and protect vegetation by parking only in designated parking spots and by walking and hiking on roads and trails.	
Activities Outside of the Paradise Area	Nisqually Entrance to Stevens Canyon Picnicking <ul style="list-style-type: none">Sunshine Point CampgroundKautz Creek ViewpointNarada Falls	Stevens Canyon to Ohanapecosh Picnicking <ul style="list-style-type: none">Box CanyonBackbone RidgeOhanapecosh Campground
	Hiking <ul style="list-style-type: none">Twin Firs TrailTrail of the ShadowsRampart Ridge	Hiking <ul style="list-style-type: none">Grove of the PatriarchsSilver Falls

Why Build a New Visitor Center?

Basic problems with the existing Jackson Visitor Center’s design make it inefficient and difficult to maintain, incompatible with the rustic character of Paradise, and inconsistent with modern building codes. For these reasons, a new visitor center will be built to take its lce. The roof was not built to withstand the fifteen to twenty feet of snow that bury everything in a typical winter. Consequently, an elaborate snow-melt system had to be installed in the roof to keep it clear. During the winter months it takes between 300 and 500 gallons of diesel fuel *per day* to heat the building and melt the snow off the roof. Repair of the snow-melt system, embedded in the roof, would require replacement of the roof which would be cost prohibitive. The snow melt system risks the safety of park staff when they are required to manually remove snow from the roof. If the roof heating system failed, the existing visitor center could collapse under the snow load.

Paradise is part of a designated National Historic Landmark District, with historic architecture that fits the natural setting. The modernistic design of the Jackson Visitor Center is incompatible with other, more traditional, structures around it. It also no longer meets current building codes or accessibility guidelines. Its ramps are too steep, and there is no elevator.

Although the new visitor center will be smaller, it will serve visitors better. It will be a model of energy efficiency and new exhibits will interpret the natural features and cultural significance of Mount Rainier. A classic design and careful landscaping will blend the building into the natural and historic landscape, while plenty of windows will permit panoramic views of Mount Rainier and the Tatoosh Range.



Rehabilitation of the Paradise Inn

The Paradise Inn is the largest lodging facility located within Mount Rainier National Park. The Inn was built using massive timbers and glacial boulders to blend the building with its natural surroundings and, therefore, the building is a contributing feature to the park’s National Historic Landmark District designation.

The Paradise Inn was constructed in 1916 and is at increasing risk of structural failure due to the damage caused by heavy exterior snow loading. The Inn fails to meet current best professional structural standards and codes and, therefore, poses a potential risk to human health and

safety in the event of a major earthquake. A structural viability assessment of the Inn in 1996 estimated that a catastrophic failure of the entire structure was possible within the next ten years. In addition, the Inn is not accessible for individuals with mobility impairments, nor does it contain guest rooms that are compliant with the Americans with Disability Act. The grand hearths and their chimneys are also at risk of collapse in the Main Lobby and Dining Hall.

The rehabilitation will correct these deficiencies, resulting in a structure that is safe, stable, and serves visitors better.